



STATE SENATOR
BRUCE PATTERSON
IN THE LOOP ★

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Pause to Remember Our Heroes

American Heroes Week in the State of Michigan begins Sunday, September 10th

As September 11th approaches, we again pause to remember the horrific tragedies of that day five years ago. We remember those ordinary people that became extraordinary human beings on that fateful day. To honor the memory of the 9-11 heroes, Senator Bruce Patterson authored public act 112 (2003) that designates the week of September 11th as American Heroes Week in the State of Michigan.

Senator Patterson authored this legislation so the citizens of Michigan could remember those ordinary people that displayed extraordinary altruism, compassion, courage, integrity, dedication and selflessness during the tragedy of 9-11. Senator Patterson honors those citizens that show these characteristics in their daily work, behavior and accomplishments each year during American Heroes Week in the State of Michigan.

A number of local public safety professionals deserve special recognition.

Officer Matthew DeHart of the Brownstown Police Department and Officer Jon Sivi of the Woodhaven Police Department are two such individuals.

These officers performed CPR on a two year old drowning victim. She was found by her mother face down in the family pool. The Mother ran the child next door to her neighbor, Officer Sivi while he was off-duty and he began CPR immediately. Officer DeHart was on patrol a short distance away, he responded and began assisting Officer Sivi in resuscitating the little girl. Due to the prompt attention given by Officer DeHart and Officer Sivi, the baby regained consciousness and they saved her life.

Senator Patterson said, "Officer Sivi and Officer DeHart exemplify what it means to be a true hero not only in the eyes of the little girl that they saved but also in the eyes of the citizens of Michigan. These officers deserved to be recognized as American Heroes. Their actions represent true heroism!"

Two more such people Officer Lauren Kuzmanovich and Officer Adam Falk of the Canton Township Police Department. On July 31, 2006, Officers Kuzmanovich and Falk were dispatched to a vehicle on the railroad tracks at Haggerty south of Joy Road. They discovered a vehicle on the tracks and a semi-conscious driver with a serious head injury. The officers also found that there was a train approaching. Calls were made in an attempt

to get the train stopped. When it appeared that that might not be possible, the officers pulled the driver from the wrecked vehicle therefore, saving the driver from great injury and possibly saving the driver's life.

Officer Kuzmanovich and Officer Falk showed the same characteristics that the heroes of 9-11 displayed and Senator Patterson will honor them as American Heroes. Senator Patterson said, "We in the State of Michigan can honor our heroes and in turn, it helps us keep in our minds and close to our hearts all the heroes of 9-11. We should all remember to thank those heroes that we encounter in our every day lives."

Finally, Officer Ryan Bidwell and Officer Alex Schulz of the Van Buren Township Police Department deserve recognition, too. The officers responded to an attempted suicide call on August 1, 2006. Upon their arrival, they found that the suspect had armed himself with a large knife. When the officers entered the home, the suspect pulled out the knife and started towards Officer Bidwell in a threatening manner. Both officers at this time drew their pistols and ordered the suspect to drop the weapon. The suspect refused.

Officer Bidwell was able to make it out the front door of the home and the suspect followed. Officer Bidwell then created enough distance to draw his Taser and disable the suspect without using deadly force. Later at the scene, the suspect's wife thanked the officers for "not killing him". Even though this was clearly a deadly force situation, Officer Bidwell and Officer Schulz found a better solution through their outstanding police work under very dangerous circumstances.

Senator Patterson said, "Officer Bidwell and Officer Schulz are heroes and this case proves that they displayed extraordinary altruism, compassion, courage, integrity, dedication and selflessness. These two officers deserve to be called American Heroes and deserve to be honored by the Michigan Senate for a job well done."

All of these officers will be receiving a proclamation from the Michigan Senate.



Marnie Quinn from the RARE Foundation, testified in support of the American Heroes Week bill. She is shown here with Sen. Patterson before a committee meeting on the bill in 2003.

Senate Passes Earned Income Tax Credit

The Senate recently passed a bill which will provide a tax credit to help working individuals and families.

Senate Bill 453 allows a taxpayer to take a credit on his Michigan income tax equal to 10 and then 20 percent of the Earned Income Tax Credit claimed on their federal tax return. The credit will be phased in over a two-year period beginning in 2008.

It is estimated that individuals or families with two children, for example, would see a \$ 440 tax credit under this legislation.

Senator Patterson warns senior citizens

“Don’t be scammed!”

As chairman of the Technology and Energy committee in the Michigan Senate, Senator Bruce Patterson warns his constituents, especially senior citizens of a new telephone scam. Con-artists are targeting DTE customers in the metro Detroit area. The swindlers claim to be from the DTE’s collections department and tells the customer that their bill is overdue. And if the customer does not pay immediately over the phone, their service will be turned off. The scammer then asks for a checking account or credit card number to complete the transaction and secure that their gas or electricity service will not be terminated.

DTE’s collection department at times does call customers whose bills are overdue to pay over the phone to maintain their service. DTE officials recommend if you receive this call and think it may be legitimate, get a copy of your bill and ask the caller to tell you your account number and the amount that is owed. If they cannot answer these questions, hang up and call your local police department to report the scam. You should also contact DTE at 1-800-477-4747. DTE officials said that scammers also have said they are calling from MichCon and Detroit Edison besides DTE.

Senator Patterson is working on legislation to protect consumers from these types of scams. “With so much new technology being used in everyday life, we need to find ways to protect consumers and punish those responsible for preying on innocent people,” said Senator Patterson.

Plymouth Fall Festival This Weekend

Please visit <http://www.plymouthfallfestival.net/> for more information.

Upcoming Office Hours

All Office Hours Run From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday, September 12th
Plymouth Library
223 S. Main Street
Plymouth

Monday, September 25th
Flat Rock Library
25200 Gibraltar Rd
Flat Rock

Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via e-mail, please contact my office at senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov. You can also visit me in my Lansing office at 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone (517) 373-7350 or (866) 262-7307; fax (517) 373-9228. I want to hear from you!

See the *Legislative Questionnaire* on the Website, too! Your responses are welcomed!

Visit www.senate.michigan.gov/patterson

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